

WE4: Report from the ICLAS-CCAC International Symposium on Regulatory Testing and Animal Welfare

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The first International Symposium on Regulatory Testing and Animal Welfare (ISRTAW), organized by the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) and the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), was held in Quebec City, Canada on June 21-23, 2001. The 160 participants from 22 countries included representatives from national research and regulatory agencies, universities, and industry involved in chemicals, pesticides and drug safety testing. The intention of ISRTAW was to provide a platform to promote and harmonize more humane methodologies for the testing of chemicals and biological products, in an effort to improve the welfare of animals used for safety testing. The main objective of ISRTAW were to: a) develop or identify best practices to minimize or eliminate pain and distress for animals used in safety evaluation and testing procedures, and b) find ways to improve communications among regulated industry, animal welfare enforcement authorities, and regulatory authorities that require safety evaluation and toxicity testing. The Proceedings from ISRTAW are scheduled to be published in the *ILAR Journal* June 2002. Here, we will report on recommendations arising from the Symposium, particularly the principles and best practices that should be implemented now, by all user countries, in order to minimize pain and distress for animals used in regulatory testing.